From: Richard Mendes
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:10pm

Subject: Microsoft

Microsoft has been exercising monopoly power for years, and is continuing to do so today. Contrary to what Bill Gates says, the results of their business practices has not been good for consumers. Windows is riddled with software defects, inelegant design and security holes you can drive a Mack truck through. Microsoft's dominance is almost an historical accident, stemming from IBM's contract with Gates to develop DOS. Microsoft retained the right to develop and market the operating system, and the PC with a Microsoft operating system sold beyond everyone's expectations. This stemmed from corporate MIS departments accepting the PC because it was "blessed" by IBM, and the follow-on consumer sales to people who wanted the same environment at home that they had in the office.

Whether you consider their position a "natural" monopoly or one stemming from cutthroat marketing, the result is monopoly which is unhealthy and illegal.

- Richard Mendes rm3m@optonline.net